

**DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EA-NM-060-03-106**

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that **Devon Energy Production Co. LP's** Application For Permit To Drill Or Deepen, the **Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1** gas well, be approved. I recommend that provisions for the approval of the APD include the attachment of the Roswell Field Office requirements, as defined in the following exhibits; **Exhibit A** - the location map, **Exhibit B** - the Well Drilling Requirements, **Exhibit C** - the Conditions of Approval, **Exhibit D** - the Permanent Resource Road Requirements, as well as, any special mitigating measures that were developed in the environmental assessment for this well. I recommend the approval of the project, which will include; the construction of the access road, well pad, reserve pit, the drilling and completion of the well, and the installation of subsequent production facilities. If the well is a dry hole or when the well is abandoned, I recommend that new substantial reclamation requirements be attached to the well abandonment, if the additional requirements are imperative for the complete restoration of the disturbed areas. These actions are subject to 43 CFR 3160 regulations for Onshore Oil and Gas operations on federal lease **NM-103263**.

These actions will affect public land described as:

New Mexico Principal Meridian

Section 15; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, T. 15 S., R. 28 E.

Authority for this action is the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION: The proposed actions would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. Portions of the subject land and adjacent land have been used for similar purposes and all present and potential uses and users have been considered.

DECISION: The recommendation and rationale are adopted as my decision.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts resulting from the proposed actions are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING: The construction phase of the proposed actions and subsequent operational phases will be monitored as per regulations.

/s/Larry D. Bray

6/12/03

**Larry D. Bray, Assistant Field Manager,
Lands and Minerals**

DATE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA# NM-060-03-106

WELL NAME & NO.: Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1

Serial #: NM-103263

Section 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E., N.M.P.M.,
Chaves County, New Mexico

OPERATOR: Devon Energy Production Co. LP

ACTION: Application for Permit to Drill -Resubmittal

SURFACE/MINERAL ESTATE: Federal Minerals/Private Surface

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Need for the Proposed Action:

Devon Energy Production Co. LP, proposes to drill and complete a natural gas well at the location described above. The proposed action is needed to develop the mineral lease.

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan:

The proposed action is addressed in the Roswell Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 1997. The proposed action is in conformance with the Roswell Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, October 1997, which supersedes all previous planning documents. All land, resource uses, and activities conform with the decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in the Resource Management Plan. The proposed action does not cause an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources and is consistent with Bureau regulations, policy, and guidance.

C. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans:

1. The proposed action does not conflict with any known State or local planning, ordinance or zoning.

II. Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action-Background Information

Devon Energy Production Co. LP has resubmitted an APD on 4/29/03. A Notices of Staking was previously submitted on 12/6/, 2000, to drill the Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1 gas well. The previous Application for Permit to Drill was submitted on 3/5/01. The proposed action would include:

Devon Energy Production Co. LP has already constructed the access road and well pad in accordance with the APD requirements, however the APD was resubmitted to extend the drilling date and the well has not been drilled, as of 6/12/03.

1.} The construction of approximately 900 feet of new access road from the point of origin to the Southwest corner of the proposed well pad. All other existing access roads would be maintained in as good or better condition than were existing at the commencement of operations.

2.} The construction of the proposed well pad would be 325 feet long by 185 feet wide exclusive of the reserve pit that would be constructed 175 feet by 150 feet and dug 4 feet below ground level. Standard oilfield construction equipment consisting of; track-type tractors, motor graders, dump trucks, and water trucks would be used to construct the access road and well pad. A drilling rig would be used to drill the well. Associated production facilities would be installed during the production phase of this well.

3.} Surfacing material (caliche/gravel) is not needed for the construction of the access road and well pad. This construction has already been performed.

B. Alternatives:

1.) Relocate the Proposed Action

The well location is determined on the basis of subsurface geologic information and by the New Mexico Oil Conservation District II, imposed spacing regulations. No other alternative location would have significantly fewer impacts than, or have a clear advantage over, the proposed location. Therefore, the alternative of changing the location involved in this action is not analyzed further in this EA.

2.) No Action

Under this alternative, the application would be rejected. None of the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, or an alternate location, would occur. Additionally, none of the anticipated benefits of the proposed action would be realized and the existing situation would continue.

III. Description of the Affected Environment

A. General Setting:

The proposed access road and well pad are located on federal minerals private surface, an estimated 16 miles, SE, of Hagerman, NM. Access to the site is described in the APD. Historical and present use of the subject land has been limited to livestock grazing and energy development. The proposed action does not conflict with any of the existing uses.

B. Rights of Record:

An inspection of the Master Title Plats and other Bureau records revealed the following title information pertaining to valid existing prior rights on the subject lands:

- Oil and gas leases: NM-103263 - covers lease actions.
- No federally administered rights-of-way will be affected in the project area.
- No mining claims are recorded within Sec. 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E., N.M.P.M.

C. Affected Resources:

The following critical resources have been evaluated and are either not present or are not affected by the proposed action or the alternatives in this EA:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)
Cultural Resources (01-R-029-A)
Farmlands, Prime/Unique
Floodplains
Native American Religious Concerns
Threatened or Endangered Species (Plants & Animals)
Wastes, Hazardous/Solid
Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Wild & Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

1. Air Quality:

The area of the proposed actions is considered Class II air quality area. A Class II area allows a moderate amount of degradation of air quality. Primary source of air pollution is the wind blowing on disturbed or exposed soils causing dust dispersion and by motorized equipment diffusing exhaust omissions.

2. Soils:

These soil group is described in the Soil Survey of Chaves County, New Mexico - Southern Part (Pages; 49, 61, 62, & 64 and map #109). The proposed action would occur on uplands east of the Pecos River. TS - Tencee-Sotim association.

Tencee soil in Gravelly SD-3 range site, this soils have moderate permeability. Available water capacity is very low. Runoff is medium. The hazard of water erosion is moderate, and the hazard of soil blowing is slight. 0 to 9 percent slopes.

Sotim soil in Loamy SD-3 range site, this soil is deep and have moderate, moderately slow, and slow permeability. Available water capacity is very low to high. Runoff is slow to medium. The hazards of water erosion and soil blowing are moderate. 0 to 5 percent slopes.

3. Vegetation:

This lease is within the mixed desert shrub vegetative community as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Appendix 11 of the Draft RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community. The mixed desert shrub community is primarily made up of desert grasses, shrubs and cacti. The native vegetation in the area is composed of mainly grasses, shrubs, and forbs, such as black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), threeawn (*Aristida* spp.), tridens (*Tridens* spp.), bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), winter fat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), catclaw mimosa (*Acacia mimosa*), soaptree yucca (*Yucca elata*), burrograss (*Scleropogon brevifolius*), tobosa (*Pleuraphis mutica*), alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and sand

dropseed (*Sporobolus* spp.). Deterioration of the native plant community results in a rapid invasion by other less desirable plant species. The mean annual precipitation is 10 to 12 inches.

The ecological site for the pad and access road is [SD-3 Sandy/Deep Sand-Southern Desertic Basins, Plains and Mountains].

4. Ground Water Quality:

State Engineers= water listing shows fresh water for stock in the Quaternary Alluvium and Artesia Group. The deepest expected fresh water is above 350'. Casing should not be set below 400 ft.

5. Wildlife:

Wildlife species utilizing this area for habitat include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, coyote, fox, rabbits, kangaroo rats, pocket gophers, prairie rattlesnakes, as well as a variety of songbirds, dove, quail, and raptors.

No known special status species (plant/animal) or critical habitat are present within the confines of the project area.

6. Range:

A. The well is located on the following grazing allotment:

- Grazing allotment #65075 operated by; Bogle Ltd. Company, P.O. Box 460, Dexter, N.M. 88230.

B. Non-Native and Invasive Weed Species (Noxious Weeds): are plant species that have a law in certain instances to eradicate the weed species and/or to prevent certain weed species from spreading. The construction of an access road and/or well location may unintentionally contribute to the establishment and spread of noxious weeds. The noxious weed seeds could be carried onto the project areas by construction equipment, the drilling rig, and transport vehicles. The main channel for seed dispersion on roads and well pads is by equipment and vehicles that were previously used and/or driven over noxious weed infested areas.

7. VRM/Recreation:

The proposed action is located in a designated VRM Class IV area. The construction of the access road and well pad will modify the existing visual features of the landscape. Until reclamation of the access road and well pad are accomplished, oil and/or gas field operations may dominate the view of the landscape. Recreation in the vicinity includes seasonal hunting.

8. Cave/Karst:

No surface cave/karst features were observed in the immediate vicinity of the proposed actions.

9. Minority or Low-income Populations or Communities:

The proposed project would not affect the minority or low-income populations or communities.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. Proposed Action Impacts:

The surface disturbance involved in the construction of the access road, well pad, and reserve pit would accumulate about 2.3 acres of private surface.

Environmental impacts that can be anticipated include:

1. Air Quality:

- a.) Air quality would temporary be impacted with pollution from exhaust omissions, chemical odors, and dust that would be caused by the motorized equipment used to construct the access road, well pad, and by the drilling rig that will be used to drill the well. Dust dissemination would discontinue upon completion of the construction phase of the road and well pad. The completion of the drilling phase of the operations would drastically reduce the air pollution from the motorized equipment. The winds that frequent the southeastern part of New Mexico generally help in dispersing the odors and omissions. The impacts to the air quality would be greatly reduced as the operational phases of doing business in the gas field are completed.

2. Soils:

- a.) The construction of the access road and well pad, would contribute to the mixing of the soil horizons and the exposed soils would be susceptible to wind blowing and water erosion. Surfacing the exposed areas will minimize the impacts to the soil.
- b.) The removal and stockpiling of topsoil for future use over the disturbed areas would temporarily impact the soils. The impact would be remedied upon reclamation, when the soil stockpile would be spread over the disturbed areas to establish a seedbed.

3. Vegetation:

- a.) The construction equipment that is used to construct the access road, well pad, and the drilling rig that is used to drill the well may impact the vegetation by contributing to the dissemination of invasive and noxious weed seed. Washing and decontaminating the equipment prior to entering and upon exiting federal land would minimize this impact.
- b.) Pipeline construction would temporarily affect the soil and vegetation along the pipeline route. Prudent pipeline construction would minimize soil disturbance and the areas should recover with appropriate revegetation efforts. Pipeline ruptures along the flow-line could cause soil contamination and the eradication of vegetation in the area(s) where the pipeline burst. Pipeline construction equipment could also impact the vegetation if the equipment is not cleansed of invasive and noxious weed seed prior to entering federal land.

4. Ground Water Quality:

- a.) Improper disposal of drilling muds and wastes could result in contamination of the soil and water resources and limit the viability of plants and wildlife populations in the area.
- b.) Produced fluids (e.g.: saltwater, oil, and/or condensate) could cause permanent damage off the well pad in the event of a breach, overflow, or spill from storage tanks associated with production facilities on the well pad.
- c.) The access road would be impacted when heavy precipitation causes water erosion damage. The integrity of the access road would also be impacted during periods of severe weather when water saturated segment(s) on the access road become impassable and vehicles are driven over the road. Consequently impending tire ruts would develop and eventually where the disintegrated segments occur, so do unauthorized driving materialize outside the route of the access road.

5. Wildlife:

- a.) Some small wildlife species may be killed and their dens or nests destroyed during construction and operation of the well. The construction of the access road and well pad would cause fragmentation of wildlife habitat. Upon abandonment of the well, the area would be put back to grassland and as close to the original topography as possible. The proper reclamation of the disturbed areas would eventually lessen the impacts to wildlife habitat. The proper restoration of the land would bring about the return of the displaced wildlife species.

6. Range:

- a.) Livestock, waterfowl, and other wildlife could enter and become trapped in the reserve pit that could eventually cause the annihilation of the animal(s).

7. Recreation:

- a.) Birds and bats that nest or seek shelter inside open-vent exhaust stacks and production facilities could become entrapped and killed.

8. Cave/karst:

- a.) No known cave entrances, or karst features are within the project area that would be impacted. No surface disturbing activities would be allowed within up to 200 meters of known cave entrances, passages or aspects of significant caves, or significant karst features.

9. Minority or Low-income Populations or Communities:

- a.) The impact of the proposed action and alternatives to minority or low-income populations or communities has been considered and no significant impact is anticipated.

B. Alternatives:

No Action Alternative:

The "No Action" alternative would constitute denial of the application. This alternative would result in none of the identified environmental impacts. There would, however, be an adverse economic impact to the applicant through the denial of the lessee's right to develop the mineral reserves or through increased costs of accessing those mineral reserves through other means. There have been no significant or unmitigatable impacts identified as a result of this analysis which would warrant selection of the no action alternative.

C. Mitigation:

The Roswell Field Office; Well Drilling Requirements (Exhibit B), Conditions of Approval (Exhibit C), Permanent Resource Road Requirements (Exhibit D) and the special requirements derived from this EA, would be applied to this proposed action to minimize the surface disturbance and conserve the surrounding landscape.

D. Cumulative Impacts:

The direct impacts of the proposed actions would include; disbursement of surface land use, soil displacement, uprooting of vegetation, and further fragmentation of wildlife habitat. Subsequent impacts could include the possibility of soil contamination in the event of a leak or spill and groundwater contamination in the event of casing failure. Impacts to wildlife is the temporary elimination of habitat that is viable for the existence of wildlife. Impacts from reclamation would have long-term effects if improper rehabilitation efforts thwart vegetation growth. In the absence of a serious spill or excessive water runoff, consequential cumulative impacts are not expected from this proposed action.

While it is likely that there will be no significant cumulative effects from this individual action, continued oil and gas development, and other surface-disturbing activities in this area may potentially have negative cumulative impacts on vegetation, soil, water, livestock, and wildlife. However, as the wells dry up and are abandoned, the lands involved are restored to the original topographies and in the reasonable foreseeable future the cumulative impacts from oil and gas activities would cease to exist.

V. **Consultation and Coordination**

An onsite inspection was conducted on the access road and well pad 1/30/01. In attendance was Mr. Steve Mathews, Devon Energy Production Co., LP.'s representative and Richard Hill, Environmental Protection Specialist from BLM.

Coordination and consultation has occurred with the applicant's agent. The comments and suggestions expressed during the onsite consultation have been incorporated into this EA.

Reviewed by:

Irene M. Gonzales
Irene M. Gonzales, Reality Specialist

5-12-03
DATE

EXHIBIT B

1 of 8 pages

WELL DRILLING REQUIREMENTS

OPERATORS NAME: Devon Energy Production Co. LP LEASE NO.: NM-103263

WELL NAME & NO: Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1

QUARTER/QUARTER & FOOTAGE: NW¼SW¼ & 1980' FSL & 660' FWL

LOCATION: Section 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E., N.M.P.M.

COUNTY: Chaves County, New Mexico

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. **The operator has the right of administrative review of these requirements pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.1(a).**
2. The **operator** shall hereafter be identified as the **holder** in these requirements. The Authorized Officer is the person who approves the Well Drilling Requirements.

II. WELL PAD CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS:

1. The BLM shall administer compliance and monitor construction of the access road and well pad. Notify Richard G. Hill at least 3 working days (72 Hours) prior to commencing construction of the access road and/or well pad. Roswell Field Office number **(505) 627-0247**.
2. Prior to commencing construction of the access road, well pad, or other associated developments, the holder shall provide the dirt contractor with **a copy of the approved APD signature page, a copy of the location map (EXHIBIT A), a copy of pages 1 & 2 from the Well Drilling Requirements (EXHIBIT B), and a copy of the Permanent Resource Road Requirements (EXHIBIT D).**
3. The holder shall stockpile the topsoil from the surface of the well pad for reclamation purposes. The topsoil on the Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1 well pad is approximate 6 inches in depth. Approximately 600 cubic yards of topsoil shall be stockpiled on the Southeast corner of the well pad, opposite the reserve pit. Upon reclamation of the well pad, the topsoil stockpile shall be redistributed over the disturbed areas. See Well Drilling Requirements - VI. Seeding Requirements - for reclamation of the well pad.
4. **Reserve Pit Requirements:**
 - A. The reserve pit shall be constructed 100' X 150' on the **North** side of well pad.
 - B. The reserve pit shall be constructed four (4) feet below ground level. The reserve pit shall be constructed so that at least one half of the total drilling mud volume is below ground level.
 - C. The plastic lining that is used to line the reserve pit shall be at least 9 mil in thickness and have a bursting strength of 170 PSI. Upon reclamation of the reserve pit, any exposed plastic lining shall be removed and properly disposed of before the reserve pit is backfilled.

D. Mineral Materials extracted during construction of the reserve pit may be used for development of the pad and access road as needed. Removal of any additional material on location must be purchased from BLM prior to removal of any material .

E. An optional mineral material pit may be constructed within the archaeologically cleared area. The mineral material removed in the process can be used for pad and access road construction. However, a mineral material sales contract must be purchased from the BLM prior to removal of any material.

F. The reserve pit shall be fenced on three (3) sides during drilling operations. The fourth side shall be fenced immediately upon rig release.

G. The reserve pit shall be constructed so as not to leak, break, or allow discharge of drilling muds. Under no circumstances will the reserve pit be cut to drain drilling muds on the terrain.

H. The reserve pit shall not be located in any natural drainage.

I. The reserve pit shall be equipped to deter entry by birds, bats, other wildlife, and livestock, if the reserve pit contains any oil and/or toxic fluids.

J. Drilling muds shall be properly disposed of before the reserve pit is reclaimed. Drilling muds are allowed to evaporate in the reserve pit. Drilling muds can be removed and transported to an authorized disposal site. The reserve pit shall be backfilled when dry.

K. Dumping of junk or trash into the reserve pit is not allowed. Junk or trash shall be removed from within the reserve pit before the reserve pit is reclaimed. **Junk or trash shall not be buried in the reserve pit.**

5. **Federal Mineral Materials Pit Requirements:**

A. Caliche, gravel, or other related materials from new or existing pits on Federal mineral estate shall not be taken without prior approval from the authorized officer. Contact Jerry Dutchover at (505) 627 -0236.

B. Payment for any Federal mineral materials that will be used to surface the access road and the well pad is required prior to removal of the mineral materials.

6. **Well Pad Surfacing Requirement:**

A. The well pad shall be surfaced with 6 inches of compacted caliche, gravel, or other approved surfacing material. The well pad shall be surfaced prior to drilling operations. **See Permanent Resource Road Requirements - EXHIBIT D - requirement #4, for road surfacing.**

7. **Cave Requirements:**

A. If, during any construction activities any sinkholes or cave openings are discovered, all construction activities shall immediately cease, and the Roswell Field Office shall be notified at (505) 627-0272.

B. The BLM Authorized Officer will, within 24 hours of notification in "A" above, conduct an on-the-ground field inspection for karst. At the field inspection the authorized field inspector will authorize or suggest mitigating measures to lessen the damage to the karst environment. A verbal order to proceed or stop the operation will be issued at that time.

III. DRILLING OPERATION REQUIREMENTS:

I. DRILLING REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is to be notified at **(505) 627-0272** in sufficient time for a representative to witness:

A. Spudding

B. Cementing casing: 13 3/8 inch 8 5/8 inch 5½ inch

C. BOP tests

2. Unless the production casing has been run and cemented or the well has been properly plugged, the drilling rig shall not be removed from over the hole without prior approval.

3. Include the API No. assigned to well by NMOCD on the subsequent report of setting the first casing string.

II. CASING:

1. 13 3/8 inch surface casing should be set at 500 feet, below usable water and circulate cement to the surface. If cement does not circulate to the surface this BLM office shall be notified and a temperature survey or cement bond log shall be run to verify the top of the cement. Remedial cementing shall be completed prior to drilling out that string.

2. Minimum required fill of cement behind the 8 5/8 inch intermediate casing is to circulate to the surface.

3. Minimum required fill of cement behind the 5½ inch production casing is extend cement upward a minimum of 500 feet above the uppermost perforation.

III. CONTROL PRESSURE:

1. Before drilling below the 8 5/8 inch casing, the blowout preventer assembly shall consist of a minimum of One Annular Preventer and Two Ram-Type Preventers and a Kelly Cock/Stabbing Valve.

2. The working pressure of the blowout preventer and related equipment (BOPE) shall be 3000 psi.

3. The BOPE's shall be tested as described in Onshore Order No.2. Any equipment failing to test satisfactorily shall be repaired or replaced. The results of the test will be reported to the BLM Roswell Field Office, 2909 W. Second St., Roswell, New Mexico 88201.

IV. DOWN HOLE ABANDONMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. If the well is a dry hole and will be plugged, approval of the proposed plugging program may be obtained orally. However, oral approval must be confirmed in writing by immediately filing a Sundry Notice And Report On Wells (Form 3160-5) "**Notice of Intention to Abandon**", and submitting an original and five (5) copies to the Roswell Field Office. The report should show the total depth reached, the reason for plugging, and the proposed intervals, by depths, where plugs are to be placed, type of plug, type of plugging mud, etc.
2. If the well is not drilled, please notify the BLM so that an official release can be approved.

V. SURFACE RECLAMATION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. When the well is abandoned the "**Notice of Intention to Abandon**" (Form 3160-5) could also be used by the holder as the initial report for the surface reclamation/restoration of the access road and well pad. Upon receipt of the "NOI" the Authorized Officer shall provide the holder with the specific requirements for the reclamation/restoration of the access road and well pad.
2. **Subsequent Report Of Abandonment:** The holder shall submit a second report on Form 3160-5, Sundry Notice and Report On Wells, the original and five (5) copies to the Roswell Field Office, pertaining to the reclamation/restoration of the access road and well pad. The holder shall demonstrate that the surface reclamation/restoration requirements have been complied with. The holder shall specify that the reclamation work accomplished the restoration of the disturbed areas to as near the original surface condition the land was in prior to construction of the access road and well pad.
3. **Final Abandonment Notice:** The holder shall submit a third report on Form 3160-5, Sundry Notice and Report On Wells, the original and five (5) copies to the Roswell Field Office, that will ascertain that all surface reclamation/restoration requirements have finally been completed and that the access road and well pad are ready for final inspection. The holder shall specify that the surface has been reclaimed in accordance with federal regulations and request final approval of the access road and well pad.
4. The holder shall comply with all the surface reclamation/restoration required by the Authorized Officer pertaining to the reclamation/restoration of the access road and well pad. Liability under bond shall be retained until surface reclamation/restoration of the access road and well pad has been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer.

VI. SEEDING REQUIREMENTS:

- A. The stockpile of topsoil shall be spread over the well pad to cultivate a seedbed. The holder shall not mix the topsoil with the reserve pit area soil. The mixing of the soils will render the conservation of the topsoil for reclamation purposes pointless, if the topsoil is contaminated with the reserve pit mud soils.
- B. The reclaimed area(s) shall be seeded with the seed mixture that was determined by the Roswell Field Office for the Desired Plant Community on this well site.

C. The same seed mixture shall be used on the reclaimed access road; **See PERMANENT RESOURCE ROAD REQUIREMENT #12.**

D. The planting of the seed shall be done in accordance with the following seeding requirements:

1. **The access road and well pad shall be ripped a minimum of 16 inches deep.** The topsoil soil shall be plowed under with soil turning equipment and the plowed surface shall be disked before seeding. Seed shall be planted using a drill equipped planter with a depth regulator to ensure proper depth of planting where drilling is possible. The seed mixture shall be evenly and uniformly planted over the disturbed area. Smaller/heavier seeds have a tendency to drop to the bottom of the drill and are planted first, the holder shall take appropriate measures to ensure this does not occur. Where drilling is not possible, seed shall be broadcast and the area shall be raked or chained to cover the seed. When broadcasting the seed, the pounds per acre noted below are to be doubled.

2. The holder shall seed all the disturbed areas with the DPC seed mixture listed below. The seed mixture shall be planted in the amounts specified in pounds of pure live seed per acre, (Pounds of pure live seed per acre: pounds of seed X percent purity X percent germination = pounds pure live seed). There shall be no primary or secondary noxious weeds in the seed mixture. In accordance with State law(s) the seed should be tested for purity and viability within nine (9) months prior to sell. Commercial seed shall be either certified or registered seed. The seed mixture container shall be tagged in accordance with State law(s) and the certified seed tag shall be made available for inspection by the Authorized Officer.

SD-3 Sandy/Deep Sand Range Site

3. **Desired Plant Community** seed mixture to be planted in pounds of pure live seed per acre:

<u>Common Name and Preferred Variety</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Pounds of Pure Live Seed Per Acre</u>
Black grama (<i>Bouteloua eriopoda</i>)		5.0 Lbs.
or Blue grama, var. Lovington	(<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)	
Sideoats grama (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>)		1.0 Lb.
var. Vaughn or El Reno		
Sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)		0.5 Lb.
or Mesa dropseed	(<i>S. flexuosus</i>)	
or Spike dropseed	(<i>S. contractus</i>)	
Desert or Scarlet (<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>)		1.0 Lb.
Globemallow	or (<i>S. coccinea</i>)	
<u>Croton (<i>Croton</i> spp.)</u>		<u>1.0 Lb.</u>
TOTAL POUNDS PURE LIVE SEED PER ACRE		8.5 Lbs.

If one species is not available, increase all others proportionately. A minimum of 4 species is required, including 1 forb species.

E. The recommended time to seed is from June 15th through September 15th. The optimum seeding time is in mid-July. Successive seeding should be done either late in the fall (Sept. 15 - Nov. 15, before freeze up) or early as possible the following spring to take advantage of available ground moisture. However, the holder may seed immediately after completing surface abandonment requirements.

F. The seeding of the disturbed areas shall be repeated until a vegetation thicket is established on the access road and well pad. The Authorized Officer shall make the determination when the regrowth on the disturbed areas is satisfactory.

G. The holder shall be responsible for the establishment of vegetation on the access road and well pad. Evaluation of vegetation growth will not be made before the completion of the first growing season after seeding. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to require reseeding at a specific time if seed does not germinate after one growing season. Waiver of this requirement would be considered if diligent attempts to revegetate the disturbed areas have failed and the Authorized Officer determines that further attempts to replant the access road and well pad is futile.

H. Contact Richard G. Hill at (505) 627-0247 to witness the seeding operations, two (2) days prior to seeding the disturbed areas.

I. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Requirement:

A. The holder shall be held responsible should the establishment of noxious weeds began to grow on the access road and well location. Evaluation of growth of the noxious weeds shall be made upon discovery. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to require the holder to eradicate the noxious weed species that have invaded the access road and/or well location. Waiver of this requirement would be considered if diligent attempts to eradicate the noxious weed species has failed and the Authorized Officer determines that further attempts to eradicate the noxious weed species from the access road and well location is futile.

B. The holder shall insure that the equipment and/or vehicles that will be used to construct the access road and/or well location are not polluted with invasive and noxious weed seed. Transporting of invasive and noxious weed seed could occur if the equipment and/or vehicles were previously used in noxious weed infested areas. In order to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and the probability that the equipment and/or vehicles are carriers of noxious weed seed from the conduct of previous projects in noxious weed infested areas, the Authorized Officer shall require that the equipment and vehicles be washed clean prior to construction of the access road and/or well location.

VII. ON LEASE - WELL REQUIREMENTS:

1. A. The holder shall post signs identifying the location permitted herein with the requirements contained in Onshore Oil and Gas Order #1 and 43 CFR 3162.6.

B. The following data is required on the well sign that shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the well pad. **The communitization agreement number shall be posted on the well sign.** The sign shall be kept up with current identification and shall be legible for as long as the well is in existence:

Operator Name: Devon SFS Operating, Inc.
Well Name & No.: Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1
Lease No.: NM-103263
Footage: 1980' FSL & 660' FWL
Location: Section 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E.

C. UPON ABANDONMENT OF THE WELL, THE SAME INFORMATION SHALL BE INSCRIBED ON THE DRY HOLE MARKER WITH A BEADED WELD.

2. The approval of the APD does not in any way imply or grant approval of any on-lease, off-lease, or off-unit action(s). It is the responsibility of the holder to obtain other approval(s) such as rights-of-way from the Roswell Field Office or other agencies, including private surface landowner(s).
3. All vehicles, including caterpillar track-type tractors, motor graders, off-highway trucks and any other type of motorized equipment that is used in the construction of the access road and well pad shall be confined to the area(s) herein approved. The drilling rig that is used to drill the well shall also be confined to the approved area(s).

4. Containment Structure Requirement:

- A. A containment structure or earthen dike shall be constructed and maintained around all storage facilities/batteries. The containment structure or earthen dike shall surround the storage facilities/batteries.
- B. The containment structure or earthen dike shall be constructed two (2) feet high around the facilities/batteries (the containment structure or earthen dike can be constructed higher than the two (2) feet high minimum).
- C. The perimeter of the containment structure or earthen dike can be constructed substantial larger for greater holding capacity of the contents of the largest tank.
- D. The containment structure or earthen dike shall be constructed so that in case of a spill the structure can contain the entire contents of the largest tank, plus 24 hour production, within the containment structure or earthen dike, unless more stringent protective requirements are deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer.

5. Well Completion Requirement:

- A. If the well is completed, all areas of the well pad not necessary for operations shall be reclaimed to resemble the original contours of the surrounding terrain. Cut-and-fill slopes shall be re-contoured and reduced to a slope of 3:1 or less.

6. Painting Requirement:

All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" designated by the Rocky Mountain Five-State Interagency Committee. The color selected for this project is Carlsbad Canyon, Munsell Soil Color Number A 6/2.

7. Fence Requirement:

The holder shall minimize disturbance to existing fences and other improvements on public lands. The holder is required to promptly repair impacted improvements to at least their former state. On private surface the holder shall contact the owner of any improvements prior to disturbing them. When necessary to pass through a fence line, the fence shall be braced on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting of the fence. No permanent gates shall be allowed unless approved by the Authorized Officer.

8. Open-vent Exhaust Stack Requirements:

A. All open-vent exhaust stacks associated with heater-treater, separators and dehydrator units shall be modified to prevent birds and bats from entering them and to the extent practical to discourage perching and nesting.

B. New production equipment installed on federal leases after November 1, 1993, shall have the open-vent exhaust stacks constructed to prevent the entry of birds and bats and to the extent practical, to discourage perching, and nesting.

VIII. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT(S): NONE

EXHIBIT C

1 of 3 pages

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

OPERATOR: Devon Production Co., LP

LEASE NO: NM-103263

WELL NAME & NO.: Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1

LOCATION: Section 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E., N.M.P.M.

QUARTER/QUARTER & FOOTAGE: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 1980' FSL & 660' FWL

COUNTY: Chaves County, New Mexico

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

1. The **operator** shall hereafter be identified as the **holder** in these requirements. The Authorized Officer is the person who approves the Conditions Of Approval.
2. The holder shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from occupancy or use of public land under this authorization.
3. The holder shall have surface use approval prior to any construction work on change(s) or modification(s) to the access road and/or well pad. The holder shall submit (Form 3160-5), Sundry Notice and Report On Wells, an original plus one (1) copy to the Roswell Field Office, stating the basis for any changes to previously approved plans. Prior to any revised construction the holder shall have an approved Sundry Notice and Report On Wells or written authorization to proceed with the change in plans ratified by the Authorized Officer.
4. **Weed Control:**

The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the site. The holder is responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policy.

5. **Hazardous Substance:**

A. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act Of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et. seg.) with regard to any toxic Substances that are used, generated by or stored on the project/pipeline route or on facilities authorized. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193). Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, ect.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.

B. The holder agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et. seg. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et. seg.) on this project/pipeline (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the operator's activity on the pipeline). This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the operator, its agent, or unrelated third parties.

6. Undesirable Event:

If, during any phase of the construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the authorization, any oil or other pollutants should be discharged, impacting Federal land, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleaning up of such oil or other pollutants, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of the holder, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the holder to control, dispose of, or clean up such discharge on or affecting Federal lands, or to repair all damages to Federal land resulting therefrom, the Authorized Officer may take such measures as deemed necessary to control and cleanup the discharge and restore the area, including, where appropriate, the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife habitats, at the full expense of the holder. Such action by the Authorized Officer shall not relieve the holder of any liability or responsibility.

7. Archeological, Paleontology, and Historical Sites:

A. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on the holder's behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder shall be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to the proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the holder.

B. The holder is hereby obligated to comply with procedures established in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to protect such cultural items as human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony discovered inadvertently during the course of project implementation. In the event that any of the cultural items listed above are discovered during the course of the project work, the holder shall immediately halt the disturbance and contact the BLM within 24 hours for instructions. The holder or initiator of any project shall be held responsible for protecting, evaluating, reporting, excavating, treating, and disposing of these cultural items according to the procedures established by the BLM in consultation with Indian Tribes. Any unauthorized collection or disturbance of cultural resources may result in a shutdown order by the Authorized Officer.

8. **Sanitation:**

The holder shall be responsible for maintaining the site in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

9. **Open-top tanks:**

Any open-top tank containing oil and/or toxic fluids shall be covered with netting or equipped to prevent birds, bats, and other wildlife from entering the open-top tank.

10. **Other:** none

EXHIBIT D

1 OF 7 PAGES

PERMANENT RESOURCE ROAD REQUIREMENTS

Operator: Devon Energy Production Co., LP

BLM Serial Number: NM-103263

Well Name & NO.: Stock Tank "15" Federal Com. #1

Location: Section 15, T. 15 S., R. 28 E.

1980' FSL & 660' FWL, Chaves County, N.M.

1. The holder agrees to comply with the following requirements:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. The **operator** shall hereafter be identified as the **holder** in these requirements. The Authorized Officer is the person who approves the Permanent Resource Road Requirements.

B. The holder shall minimize any disturbance to structures on public domain surface. Damages caused to any structure during road construction operations shall be promptly repaired by the holder. Functional use of any structure shall be maintained at all times. The holder shall make a documented good-faith effort to contact the owner prior to disturbing any structure.

C. When necessary to pass through an existing fence line, the fence shall be braced on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting and the fence shall be promptly repaired to at least it's former state or to a higher standard than it was previously constructed.

D. A professional engineer shall design the access road if the road grade exceeds 10 percent slope.

2. INGRESS AND EGRESS:

The access road shall be constructed to access the well pad on the **Southwest** side of the well pad to comply with the planned access road route.

3. ROAD TRAVELWAY WIDTH:

The travelway of the road shall be constructed 14 feet wide. The maximum width of surface disturbance shall not exceed 30 feet of road construction. The specified travelway width is 14 feet for all road travelway surfaces unless the Authorized Officer approves a different width.

4. SURFACING: The entire length of the access road travelway shall be surfaced prior to drilling operations.

The access road travelway shall be surfaced with caliche or gravel material. If other surfacing material is used, the new type of material shall be approved by the Authorized Officer. The travelway of the road shall be surfaced with caliche material. The caliche material shall be compacted to a minimum thickness of 6 inches for the entire length of the travelway surface on the access road. The width of surfacing shall not be less than 14 feet of travelway surface. Prior to using any mineral materials from an existing federal pit, authorization must first be obtained from the Authorized Officer.

5. CROWNING AND DITCHING:

Crowning with materials on site and ditching on one side of the road, on the uphill side, shall be required. The road cross section shall conform to the cross section diagrams in Figure 1 (attached page 6). Where conditions dictate, ditching is required on both sides of the road. The road crown shall have a grade of approximately 2% (i.e., a 1" crown on a 14' wide road).

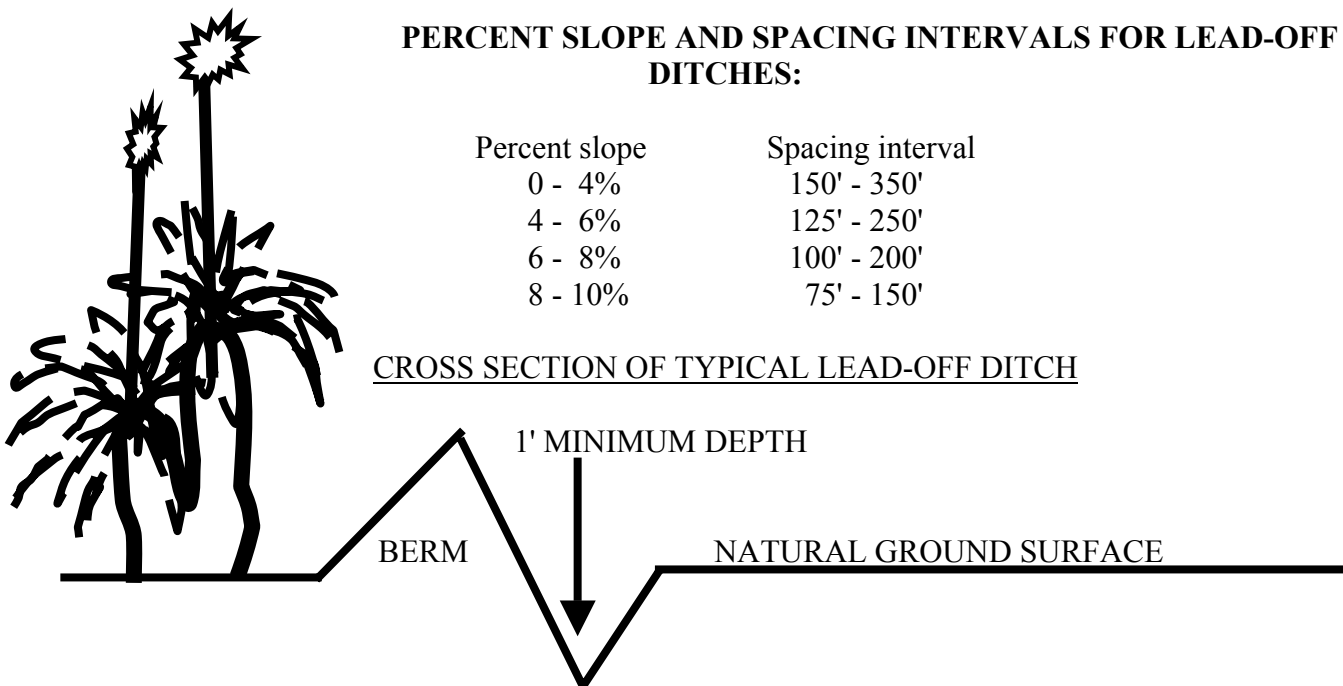
6. DRAINAGE:

A. Drainage control shall be ensured over the entire road through the construction of ditches, sidehill outsloping and insloping, lead-off ditches, culvert installation, and low water crossings.

B. All lead-off ditches shall be graded to drain water with a 1 percent minimum to 3 percent maximum ditch slope. The spacing interval for lead-off ditches shall be determined according to the following table, but may be amended depending upon existing soil types and centerline road slope (in %):

PERCENT SLOPE AND SPACING INTERVALS FOR LEAD-OFF DITCHES:

Percent slope	Spacing interval
0 - 4%	150' - 350'
4 - 6%	125' - 250'
6 - 8%	100' - 200'
8 - 10%	75' - 150'

CROSS SECTION OF TYPICAL LEAD-OFF DITCH

C. A typical lead-off ditch has a minimum depth of 1 foot below and a berm of 6 inches above natural ground level. The berm shall be on the down-slope side of the lead-off ditch.

D. On road slopes exceeding 2%, water flow shall drain water into an adjacent lead-off ditch. Water flow drainage location and spacing shall be determined by the following formula:

FORMULA FOR SPACING INTERVAL OF LEAD-OFF DITCHES:

$$\text{spacing interval} = \frac{400'}{\text{road slope in \%}} + 100'$$

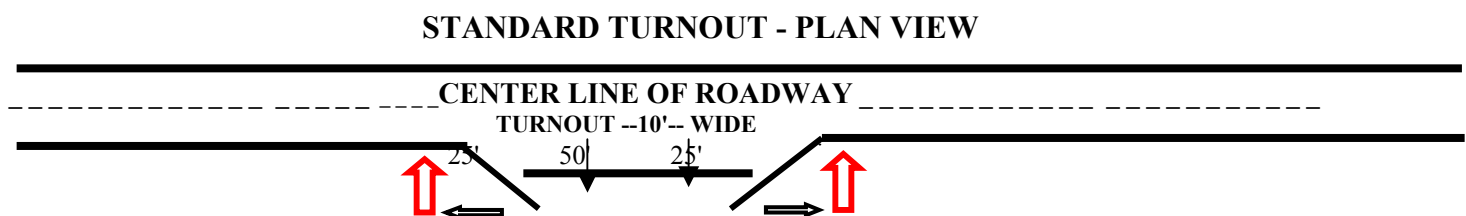
Ex. 4% slope: spacing interval = $\frac{400}{4} + 100 = 200$ feet

7. CULVERT INSTALLATION: NONE REQUIRED.

A. **No culvert pipes are required on this road.** Culvert pipes shall be used in drainage ravines and/or at water flow crossings that require a culvert to cross over the water drainages. The culvert shall be XXX inches in diameter (minimum 18 inch culvert). The location for the culvert installation is designated on the attached map - **EXHIBIT A**. (A culvert pipe installation diagram shall be attached to this stipulation when a culvert is required to be installed, see EXHIBIT - X).

8. TURNOUTS:

Vehicle turnouts shall be constructed on all single lane roads (unless the Authorized Officer determines that the turnouts are not required). Turnouts shall be intervisible and shall be constructed on all blind curves with additional turnouts as needed to keep spacing below 1000 feet. Turnouts shall conform to the following diagram:



9. CATTLEGUARDS: NONE REQUIRED.

Where used, all cattle guard grids and foundation designs and construction shall meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Load Rating H-20, although AASHTO U-80 rated grids shall be required where heavy loads, (exceeding H-20 loading,) are anticipated. (See BLM standard drawings for cattle guards). Cattle guard grid length shall not be less than 8 feet and width of not less than 14 feet. A wire gate (16-foot minimum width) will be provided on one side of the cattle guard unless requested otherwise by the surface user. **(A cattle guard installation diagram shall be attached to this stipulation when a cattle guard is required to be installed - see EXHIBIT X - DIAGRAM A & B).**

10. MAINTENANCE:

A. The holder shall maintain the road in a safe, usable condition. A maintenance program shall include, but not be limited to blading, ditching, culvert installation, culvert cleaning, cattleguard maintenance, and surfacing.

B. The holder shall cooperate with other authorized users in maintenance of the road(s). Failure of the holder to share maintenance costs in dollars, equipment, materials, and manpower proportionate to the holders use with other authorized users may be adequate grounds to terminate the road use. The determination as to whether maintenance expenditures have been withheld by the holder and the decision to terminate the road use shall be at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. Upon request, the Authorized Officer shall be provided with copies of any maintenance agreements entered into by the holder.

11. PUBLIC ACCESS:

A. Public access on this road shall not be restricted by the holder without specific written approval being granted by the Authorized Officer. Gates or cattleguards on public land shall not be locked or closed to public use unless closure is absolutely necessary and is authorized in writing by the Authorized Officer.

12. ROAD REHABILITATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. **The access road shall be ripped a minimum of 16 inches deep.** The surface material on the road may be removed and re-used in other approved area(s). Surfacing material left in place shall be plowed under with soil turning equipment and the plowed surface shall be disked before seeding. All culverts and other road structures shall be removed. All over-burden material shall be replaced in the cut areas, ditches, lead-off ditches, and any other excavated earthwork shall be back filled. The road shall be recontoured to as near it's original topography, as possible. An earthen berm shall be constructed at the entrance of the road to prevent vehicular traffic on the reclaimed road.

B. The reclaimed road shall be seeded with the following **DPC seed mixture** (the Roswell Field Office has determined the Desired Plant Community seed mixture for the reclaimed area(s)):

SEE EXHIBIT B - WELL DRILLING REQUIREMENTS - VI. SEEDING REQUIREMENTS - FOR THE DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY SEED MIXTURE THAT SHALL BE USED ON THE RECLAIMED ACCESS ROAD.

C. The seed and any fertilizer involved shall be broadcast over the roadbed with a spreader, than harrowed to cover the seed. Use of a seed drill planter to plant is acceptable. Appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that the seed/fertilizer mixture is evenly and uniformly applied. There shall be no primary or secondary noxious weeds in the seed mixture. In accordance with State law(s) the seed should be tested for purity and viability within nine (9) months prior to sell. Commercial seed shall be either certified or registered and the seed mixture container shall be tagged in accordance with State law(s). The seed mixture tag shall be made available to the Authorized Officer for inspection. The seeding shall be repeated until a satisfactory vegetation thicket is established and this determination shall be made by the Authorized Officer. Evaluation of plant growth will not be made before the first growing season.

D. Seeding shall be done between June 15th through September 15th. However, the holder can seed the road immediately after preparing the roadbed.

E. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to require reseeding at a specific time if seed does not germinate after one (1) growing season. Waiver of this requirement would be considered if diligent attempts to revegetate the road has repeatedly failed and the Authorized Officer determines that further attempts to revegetate the road would be futile.

F. **Contact Richard G. Hill at (505) 627-0247 to witness the seeding operations two (2) days before the start of the seeding process.**

13. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: NONE.